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January 7, 1980

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Mrs. Susan A. Hutcheson
Philip Morris Incorporated
Research Center, P.O. Box 26583
Richmond, Virginia 23283

DOCKET # 1500
1-18-78/SP/14

PM 697

Re: Argentine Patent Application
Serial No. 276.784
Philip Morris Inc.
Our File 582-847 Argentina

Dear Susan:

We have been advised by our Argentine agents that a report has been received from the Patent Office concerning the above-identified application. The report states:

"It can be granted. Previously the wording of the claims should be improved, really subordinating claims 7 and the following (ammonium carbamate should be transferred to the main one)."

In essence, the Patent Office is requiring that, in accordance with Argentine practice, the subject matter of the application be defined in a single independent claim with all other claims depending therefrom. This requires that present independent Claims 1 and 7 be merged.

The following revised impregnation steps for Claim 1 are proposed as a means for meeting the requirement of the Office Action:

"1. The continuous process of expanding tobacco comprising the steps of mixing the tobacco to be treated with an expansion agent chosen from the group formed by concentrated ammonium hydroxide and concentrated aqueous ammonium carbamate, this treatment lasting long enough to introduce at least 1% by weight of ammonia, with the tobacco treated with ammonium hydroxide being thereafter placed in contact with solid, comminuted CO₂."

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The remainder of the claim would remain as it presently appears in steps (d) and (e) of Claim 1 and steps (c) and (d) of Claim 7. If the above proposed claim is acceptable, please let me know as soon as possible, since our agents require a prompt response.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Teresa M. Gillis
Theresa M. Gillis

TMG/dp

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